SMITH VELMA T 25/04/82 171959 PRINTER: LI

S1 TEL AVIV 9919

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EXCISE

22

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 09919 231710Z
ACTION NEA-11
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 EA-06 L-03
PM-09 PA-01 SSM-03 INRE-00 SAL-01 ACDA-12 SSN-02
ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /106 W
------------------232265 231809Z /45

C 231656Z JUN 81 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7874
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 09919
E.O. 12065: RDS-3 6/23/01 (BROWN, WILLIAM A.) OR-M
TAGS: IS, PEPR, MNUC, SY, LE
SUBJECT: PM BEGIN'S OFFICE DENIES LEAKS FROM KNESSET COMMITTEE
REF: TEL AVIV 9882

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☒
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☒ in part
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS (B)1

1(U)PM BEGIN'S OFFICE HAS DENIED PRESS REPORTS (REFTEL) THAT THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE THAT HIS RECENT SHARP COMMENTS ABOUT THE SYRIAN SAMS IN LEBANON WERE AIMED AT DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM THE PLANNED ISRAELI RAID ON IRAQ'S NUCLEAR REACTOR. THE PM'S OFFICE

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DENOUNCED "THE LEAKS FROM THE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING AND AFTER" AS "NOT ONLY INACCURATE BUT FUNDAMENTALLY DISTORTED AND DAMAGING TO THE CAUSE OF NATIONAL SECURITY."
2(U)BEGIN WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD THE "SURPRISED" KNESSET COMMITTEE THAT THE SYRIAN MISSILES IN LEBANON HAD NOT IMPAIRED ISRAEL'S INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING CAPABILITIES OR ISRAEL WOULD HAVE KNOCKED THEM OUT IN NO TIME AND WITHOUT CASUALTIES. NEWS REPORTS CLAIM BEGIN ALSO TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT "THE CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON KNOW THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT INTERVENE ON THEIR BEHALF WITH INFANTRY FORCES BECAUSE ISRAEL DOES NOT WANT TO GET ENTANGLED IN A VIETNAM-LIKE WAR."
3(C)COMMENT. (B)1

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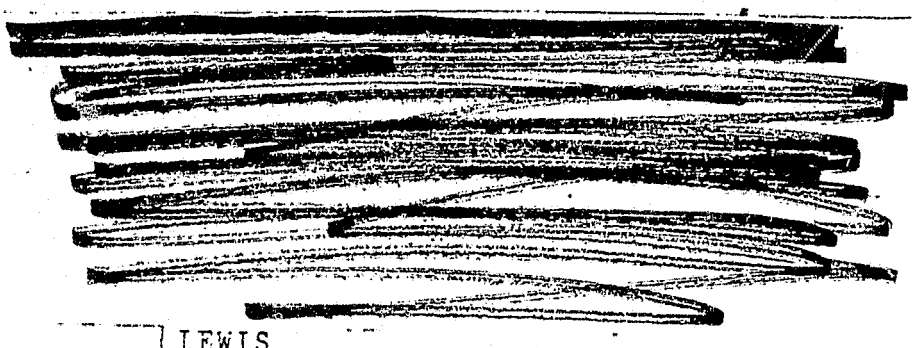

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